## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03014 191235Z ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 OPIC-03 XMB-02 /105 W

R 191056Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1115
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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USEEC

STR FOR ACTION

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: MTN-US/NORDIC BILATERAL

REF: GENEVA 5623

1. STIG BRATTSTROM, CHAIRMAN OF NORDIC DELEGATION AT DISCUSSIONS MENTIONED IN REFTEL, RECENTLY BRIEFED EMBOFF ON SWEDISH VIEW OF RESULTS. WHILE HIS CONCLUSIONS WERE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS REFTEL, SOME OF HIS COMMENTS BEAR REPEATING FOR EMPHASIS ALONE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 03014 191235Z

2. MEETING APPEARS TO HAVE ESTABLISHED VERY FAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE. BRATTSTROM INDICATED HE HAD CONSIDERABLE PESSIMISM BEFORE HAND. AFTER NORDICS HELD PRELIMINARY MEETING, HE BELIEVED NO REAL EXCHANGE WOULD BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE NORDICS HAD PLACED THEMSELVES IN SUCH RIGID POSITIONS. OTHER NORDICS WERE MOST CONCERNED THAT NO FREE WHEELING BY

INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES TAKE PLACE. IN EVENT, HOWEVER, LOW-KEY INFORMAL APPROACH OF AMERICAN SIDE, COMBINED EVEN WITH OCCASIONAL DISAGREEMENTS AMONG THE AMERICANS THEMSELVES, ACCORDING TO BRATTSTROM, STIMULATED THE SAME SORT OF APPROACH FROM THE NORDICS. RESULTS WAS MUCH BETTER THAN BRATTSTROM HAD DARED HOPED.

- 3. BRATTSTROM ALSO PROFESSED HIMSELF DELIGHTED AT RECENT REPORTS OF AMBASSADOR STRAUSS' SUCCESS IN BRUSSELS. HE SAID THAT DESPITE THE NORDICS' STRONG SUPPORT FOR US TIMETABLE PRESENTED IN SWEDEN, THEY WERE RATHER PESSIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS.
- 4. ON AGRICULTURE, BRATTSTROM WAS QUITE DISAPPOINTED THAT NORDICS HAD BEEN UNABLE TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING. ACCORDING TO HIM, NORDICS WERE SIMPLY CAUGHT BY SURPRISE BY FLEXIBLE US POSITION, AND NOT ABLE TO RESPOND AS THEY WOULD HAVE WISHED. IN ANY CASE, HOWEVER, HE IS EMPHATIC THAT NORDICS WILL TAKE NO LEAD IN AGRICULTURE. NORDICS ARE SIMPLY GOING TO BE DRAGGED ALONG BY WHATEVER DECISION THE US MAKES WITH THE EC.
- 5. SWEDES HAVE STRONG HOPES THAT US WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE TOWARD NORDIC POSITION ON SELECTIVITY (SAFEGUARDS), AND BELIEVE THEY WERE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE THEIR POSITION ADEQUATELY TO THE US SIDE. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 03014 191235Z

POSITION IS NOT YET SET.

6. BRATTSTROM EXPRESSED NORDIC INTENT TO PLAY VERY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE TOWARD LDCS. HE SAID NORDICS ARE WELL AWARE THAT LDCS (AND OTHERS) CONSIDER NORDIC POSITIONS TO BE CLOSER TO LDC DESIRES THAN OTHER INDUSTRIAL NATIONS. AS A RESULT, WHEN NORDICS TELL LDC SIDE THAT PARTICULAR GOAL OR OBJECTIVE IS UNATTAINABLE, LATTER TEND TO LISTEN. THUS, BRATTSTROM SEES NORDICS AS PLAYING CRUCIAL ROLE AS PURVEYORS OF COMMON SENSE, AND AS FACILITATORS OF NEGOTIATING PROCESS. IN THIS SENSE LAST PARAGRAPH OF PARA 8 IN REFTEL MAY BE CORRECT, BUT DOESN'T CAPTURE INTENTIONS OF NORDICS IN RELATIVELY LIBERAL POSTURE TOWAR LDCS.

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